



June 10, 2002

Ms. Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Chair
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Chairwoman Abernathy:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Chair
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Mr. Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-A302
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Commissioner Copps:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Mr. Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8-A204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Commissioner Martin:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Mr. Thomas Dunleavy, Commissioner
New York State Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Commissioner Dunleavy:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Thomas Dunleavy, Commissioner
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Ms. Lila A. Jaber, Commissioner
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Gerald Gunter Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Commissioner Jaber:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Ms. Lila A. Jaber, Commissioner
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Mr. Bob Rowe, Commissioner
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 202601

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Commissioner Rowe:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Mr. Bob Rowe, Commissioner
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.



June 10, 2002

Mr. Nan Thompson, Chair
Alaska Public Utilities Commission
1016 West 6th Ave., Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Review of the Definition of
Universal Service (Universal Service Redefinition Proceeding), CC Docket 96-45, FCC
01-J-10

Dear Chairman Thompson:

In the near future, the Joint Board will make its recommendation on whether to modify the definition of universal service. One of the issues under consideration in this proceeding is whether to add equal access to the list of services eligible for universal service support. In a separate Notice of Inquiry (NOI), CC 02-39, the Commission is investigating whether it should change or eliminate equal access requirements that currently apply to incumbent local exchange carriers.

NTCA supports a change in the definition of universal service to include the provision of equal access among the services supported by the federal mechanism. It has filed comments in support of the change in this proceeding and in the NOI. NTCA urges the Joint Board to recommend the addition of equal access as a supported service. The service is widely deployed and subscribed to by a majority of residential customers. It is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity because it enables consumers to choose their own toll provider. Its elimination will narrow rather than broaden consumer choices.

NTCA believes that the Joint Board's statutory prerogative to define supported services should not be undermined by the proceedings in the NOI. It has therefore requested, in its reply comments in that proceeding, that the Commission forward the initial and reply comments to the

Mr. Nan Thompson, Chair
June 10, 2002
Page Two

Joint Board. NTCA has also recommended that the FCC allow the Joint Board to make its recommendation in the universal service redefinition proceeding before the Commission issues its decision in the equal access proceeding.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry Division

4121 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1801
(703) 351-2000

Enclosures: NTCA's Initial and Reply Comments in the FCC's Equal Access NOI
CC Docket 02-39.